

BOROUGH OF THETFORD



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
TOGETHER WITH THE  
REPORT OF THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR  
1961.

STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health:

A. S. Dunn, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Public Health Inspector:

R. C. R. Robinson, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Municipal Offices,

THETFORD,

Norfolk.

My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1961.

Your obedient Servant,

A. S. DUNN.

### The Town and the Social Situation

Some years ago, this Council decided to make a determined effort to halt the decline in size and importance of the town. The result was the Town Expansion Scheme. In essence, its objects were to bring new industry and people to Thetford. An overspill arrangement with London County Council would help in some small measure to relieve population pressure there and provide a labour force for such business enterprises as could be persuaded here. In these first few years, the number of factories has grown steadily. The population increases with them: 1959: 4,910 1960: 5,180 1961: 5,470 i.e. at a rate of 6% per annum.

The planned expansion is to a community of seventeen to twenty thousand people in about twenty years. It could be that there will be pressure to go faster and further in overspill areas; the new towns have already been approached and generally their reaction is to resist the suggestion. The plain truth of the matter is that London cannot rehouse those in desperate need other than in areas like East Anglia, and that rapid dispersal of populations of the order of 200,000 from London to Norfolk just cannot be achieved without directing industry to the area. Unless this nettle is grasped, conditions will continue to deteriorate in the capital. Heaven knows, they are bad enough already: hundreds of families in welfare homes, and not problem families, not the shiftless, not the undeserving poor. They are decent people whose misfortunes stem from the husband's being unskilled and commanding wages too low to buy accommodation at the prevailing high rents. Behind these homeless battalions are armies in lesser degrees of discomfort and misery: large families living in one room, token-furnished at high rent; young couples whose tenure depends on their remaining childless; and those whose temporary stay with in-laws has lasted years longer than all concerned had anticipated.

The great social evils today are overcrowding and a housing shortage which is general throughout the country, but particularly bad in the cities. Land values rise, building costs go up, interest rates remain very high and housing authorities cannot do what they should. The problem can only be solved, if it is capable of solution, at the national level.

### Problem Families

Our Local Government structure is such that County Council and District Council are each required to carry out particular duties and the respective areas of responsibility are defined in the statutes. Thus Welfare provisions are made by County Council. Housing, however, is the concern of the District Council. Liaison between the authorities is essential as there are problems of a welfare nature which arise out of housing difficulties. An example of this is the excessive demand for welfare accommodation which exists in London in consequence of a desperate housing shortage. Here I am concerned with a much smaller problem but one almost equally difficult to resolve - the bad tenant who courts eviction and thereafter Welfare attention becomes necessary.



A Housing authority has to manage the ratepayers' property in a business-like fashion. Rents have to be collected when due; if arrears accumulate and are not recovered, the loss has to be made good by the ratepayers. If a tenant persistently fails to meet his rent obligation, the District Council's duty is quite simply to replace him by someone who will pay his way. Eviction is the ultimate deterrent to the rent-shy, and at times the weapon has to be used. When it is, the housing authority may receive unfavourable publicity. This they do not merit for eviction is only reluctantly ordered after an exercise of restraint in the face of provocation no private landlord would tolerate. Before the crisis comes, the Welfare authority is warned of the need for its services. Quite exceptional measures are taken through various social workers to avoid a break-up of the family concerned. The issue is complicated by such tenants often showing other undesirable traits. Such are the "problem families."

Problem families are rather difficult to define. One definition is "families requiring a disproportionate amount of care, supervision and assistance from welfare services". Perhaps a description would give the reader a better idea of the nature of the problem which these people can present. The circumstances here described do not of course apply to any particular real family but the elements are taken from life.

The knowing social worker calls at the house in the afternoon as mornings find the family abed. The overgrown garden with its collection of tins and broken bottles is in keeping with the chaos to be found indoors. Loud knocking is necessary for the television set is on maximum output. The chatelaine appears, so dishevelled that one suspects that she sleeps fully clad. Curlers are standard equipment and usually do not indicate that some gala occasion is in the offing. The visitor is admitted, with no apparent embarrassment to the householder that such a scene of disorder and neglect should be presented to a stranger. Wallpaper and paint are peeled off, plaster is broken, woodwork chipped and the windows cracked. The curtains, although up for years, are still held by drawing pins. The general impression is that this is not a home but merely a shelter taken over by rather scruffy campers. It is as well not to sit down, for over the years the chairs have acquired a patina of mingled grease and dirt. Throughout the house there is an interesting odour compounded of these two elements with decomposing sweat and urine. The table bears the remnants of many scratch meals. The kitchen sports only a few pots and pans which are dirty or rusty, or both. In the larder are bread and jam and precious little else. Upstairs the beds are left unmade all day and often the children's mattresses not dried out after being soaked. Throughout the inspection, mother and youngest child are locked in an embrace. Alas the foul napkins and lack of food in the house suggest that this mother-love is a poor thing which does not show itself in any practical expression requiring effort. The husband, if in residence, is usually equally feckless and inadequate for all purposes other than procreation. He is above all careful not to make a habit of working for a living.

What is done by welfare to reclaim such families? Home helps assist in cleaning up the mess. They are also able to teach simple cookery and attempt to create in the house a more orderly way of living. If there is some response to this training, it can be followed by the mother and children spending a few weeks at a residential centre where housecraft is taught. I have known this effect great improvement but only when the husband was made of better stuff than his wife and could help to ensure that the new standards were kept up on her return home.

Arrangements can be made for rent to come direct from the National Assistance Board or through the Welfare Officer. Some of the remaining relief may be paid in kind to curb foolish spending. The man of the house can sometimes be shamed into regular work. Bedding and children's clothes come from such agencies as the children's department and W.V.S. All too often these efforts produce only temporary improvement and even this slight. Eviction follows and the family, if unable to find a suitably weak-minded landlord have to be sheltered in welfare homes.



The reader may wonder at the expenditure of such time and trouble if the prospects of remedying the fault are so poor. Quite simply the reason is - for the children's sake. Even in the worst home, a child derives security from his emotional attachment to his mother. This is still true no matter how slatternly and inept she may be. To deprive a child of maternal affection is therefore a grave matter. That is why social workers are prepared to spend endless hours cajoling apparently worthless parents to make some sort of a home for the children. The community loses nothing by the time and money spent on these efforts at rehabilitation. The ratepayer/taxpayer is here in a position where he can't win. He has to maintain people like these in one way or another. This being so, it might be reasonable to expect the County Council to underwrite rent loss and excessive repair bills where but for these the District Council might be willing to postpone eviction. After all, the housing authority would thereby remove an expensive call on welfare accommodation.

### House Building and Improvement

During the year, 174 Council houses were built bringing the total to 752. Private dwellings number 1,129 of which 31 were erected in 1961.

There were 5 standard grants and 3 discretionary improvement grants made: uncertainty about redevelopment in the town centre may have deterred some applicants.

Rateable Value: £62,392

ld. rate producing: £275

### Housing Act, 1961.

The Housing Act, 1961, deals with financial matters such as conditions and levels of subsidy from the Exchequer, and makes minor alterations to previous Housing Acts. Some measure of control is now given over houses let off in lodgings or shared by several families. The housing authority can now require a reasonable standard of management and of basic amenities in such properties.

### Rehousing

The Borough Council continues to build houses for the local people: the overspill L.C.C. houses are in general not available to any but sponsored applicants migrating from London to employment on the industrial estate. There has to be flexibility, of course, and workers from other towns coming to a specific job on the estate have also been housed. Thetford people too have been allotted L.C.C. houses when it seemed that houses were likely to remain untenanted for a prolonged period. This happens because it is not always practicable to have new job, new house, new worker and family available at the same time.

Applicants on the waiting list for Thetford's own Council houses sometimes claim that there are medical grounds for their being given special consideration. The Medical Officer advises the Council on the substance of these appeals. Such must be weighed against the needs of others who may be overcrowded or in lodgings, and also of those who have patiently waited their turn for a better house.

### Vital Statistics

|              |     |                           |    |
|--------------|-----|---------------------------|----|
| Births:      | 125 | Deaths:                   | 76 |
| Live Births: | 124 | Legitimate stillbirths:   | 1  |
| Stillbirths: | 1   | Illegitimate Live births: | 5  |

Illegitimate births formed 4% of all births (E. & W. 5.9%)

|                        |      |                        |      |
|------------------------|------|------------------------|------|
| Death Rate (Crude):    | 13.9 | Birth Rate (Crude):    | 22.7 |
| Death Rate (adjusted): | 10.7 | Birth Rate (adjusted): | 22.7 |

(Adjusted rates are to be used in comparing districts with each other: they may also be compared with the national rate.)

Comparative Table

| Rate*                                 | Thetford | Norfolk | England       |
|---------------------------------------|----------|---------|---------------|
| Birth .. .. .                         | 22.7     | 17.9    | 17.4          |
| Death .. .. .                         | 10.7     | 10.8    | 12.0          |
| Infant Mortality .. .. .              | 8.1      | 19.3    | 21.4          |
| Maternal mortality .. .. .            | Nil      | 0.8     | 0.3           |
| Stillbirth .. .. .                    | 8.0      | 15.6    | 18.7          |
| Neonatal mortality .. .. .            | Nil      | 13.5    | 15.5          |
| Perinatal mortality .. .. .           | 8.0      | 27.2    | 32.2          |
| Legitimate Infant mortality .. .. .   | 8.4      | 19.4    | Not available |
| Illegitimate Infant mortality .. .. . | Nil      | 17.1    | Not available |

\*For definitions see Appendix B.

Comment

The basic statistical indices of the health of a community are: birth rate, death rate, and infant mortality rate. The Borough shows up well on all three counts. In interpreting rates, due regard must be paid to the number of events from which the calculations are made. For example, the local I.M.R. 8.1 rests on one death; one less would have yielded a nil rate, one more 16.2. The difference between our experience and that obtaining generally is not then quite so great as it appears from the rates quoted in the table; a win by a short head rather than three lengths.

The illegitimacy percentage at 4 compares favourably with the national 5.9. This last however is distressingly high:- of every seventeen children born in England, one is illegitimate.

There was only one stillbirth, no death in the first four weeks of life and no women died in childbirth. This suggests that the provisions for the care of mother and child are satisfactory.

Deaths

Causes of Death as Registered in 1961

|                              | Male | Female |
|------------------------------|------|--------|
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory | 0    | 0      |
| 2. Tuberculosis, other       | 0    | 0      |
| 3. Syphilis                  | 0    | 0      |
| 4. Diphtheria                | 0    | 0      |
| 5. Whooping Cough            | 0    | 0      |
| 6. Meningococcal infections  | 0    | 0      |
| 7. Acute Poliomyelitis       | 0    | 0      |



|                                           | Male | Female |
|-------------------------------------------|------|--------|
| 8. Measles                                | 0    | 0      |
| 9. Other infective and parasitic diseases | 0    | 0      |
| -----                                     |      |        |
| 10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach           | 0    | 2      |
| 11. Malignant neoplasm, lung and bronchus | 2    | 1      |
| 12. Malignant neoplasm, breast            | 0    | 1      |
| 13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus            | 0    | 0      |
| 14. Other Malignant Disease               | 3    | 2      |
| 15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia                 | 0    | 0      |
| -----                                     |      |        |
| 16. Diabetes mellitus                     | 0    | 0      |
| -----                                     |      |        |
| 17. Vascular lesions of nervous system    | 6    | 5      |
| 18. Coronary disease, angina              | 7    | 6      |
| 19. Hypertension with heart disease       | 0    | 0      |
| 20. Other heart disease                   | 10   | 12     |
| 21. Other circulatory disease             | 2    | 2      |
| -----                                     |      |        |
| 22. Influenza                             | 0    | 0      |
| 23. Pneumonia                             | 0    | 1      |
| 24. Bronchitis                            | 2    | 0      |
| 25. Other diseases of respiratory system  | 0    | 0      |
| -----                                     |      |        |
| 26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum         | 1    | 0      |
| 27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea    | 1    | 0      |
| 28. Nephritis and nephrosis               | 1    | 1      |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate               | 1    | 0      |
| 30. Pregnancy                             | 0    | 0      |
| 31. Congenital malformations              | 0    | 0      |
| 32. Other diseases                        | 0    | 5      |
| 33. Motor vehicle accidents               | 1    | 0      |
| 34. All other accidents                   | 1    | 0      |
| 35. Suicide                               | 0    | 0      |
| 36. Homicide                              | 0    | 0      |
| -----                                     |      |        |

Age at Death

|        | -1 | 1+ | 5+ | 10+ | 20+ | 30+ | 40+ | 50+ | 60+ | 70+ | 80+ | 90+ |
|--------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Male   | 1  | 0  | 0  | 2   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1   | 8   | 16  | 8   | 1   |
| Female | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 2   | 4   | 12  | 18  | 1   |
| Total  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 2   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 3   | 12  | 28  | 26  | 2   |

The usual pattern of death in Western society is demonstrable here: death is rare in youth and uncommon in middle age. Most can expect about seventy years, the womenfolk tending to have a rather longer life than the men. Major causes of death are those associated with the ageing process, the heart and blood vessels giving out after decades of constant use. Such are inevitable but in recent years, younger people have been dying of heart disease at an increasing rate. This experience is shared by all Western European and the North American countries. Men are by far more often the victims than are women. The mechanics of their demise is that the coronary arteries which supply the heart muscle itself with nourishment become blocked. Why this happens is still obscure. Studies of the incidence of the disease show it to hit most often men in sedentary occupations, where there may not be any physical work involved but much nervous strain. A smoker is at greater risk than the non-smoker. Some evidence suggests the latter run only half as much chance of developing the disease.

Next to vascular disease in importance is the cancer group. Stated simply, cancer is the state resultant from cells in any organ deviating from blueprint when producing their own replacements. More primitive cells with no useful function are formed; these multiply faster than normal cells and invade surrounding healthy tissue. Swept away in the blood stream, a few such cells can form secondary growths in other organs. Cure of cancer depends on early diagnosis and also on the degree of invasiveness shown by the aberrant cells. Prevention in the absence of knowledge of the ultimate fault, i.e. the reason for normal cell reproduction departing from plan, rests on observing what conditions seem to increase the likelihood of a cancer developing and trying to remove them. Let me take lung cancer, now the commonest cancer, as an example.

Doctors noticed that lung cancer patients were often heavy smokers. The increase in deaths from lung cancer over the past forty years has been dramatic: cigarette consumption has also increased:-

| Lung Cancer Deaths | Cigarettes (as millions/lbs/tobacco) |      |         |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|------|---------|
| 592                | -                                    | 1920 | - 80.3  |
| 1,654              | -                                    | 1930 | - 107.0 |
| 5,303              | -                                    | 1940 | - 161.1 |
| 13,598             | -                                    | 1950 | - 181.7 |
| 25,288             | -                                    | 1961 | - 243.1 |

Lung cancer is rare in the non-smoker, and steadily increases in incidence among smokers, the more cigarettes smoked the greater is the toll. Long term studies show conclusively that future risk can be sharply reduced, if the smoker gives up the habit, no matter how long or how much he has indulged. Pipe smoking of equivalent tobacco quantities is much less dangerous. There is therefore a reasonable body of evidence that there is a causal relationship between smoking and lung cancer. Whether to act on the evidence is a matter for the individual.



The low death rate from infectious disease taken for granted in Britain today is in terms of history a recent development. In early Victorian England, four deaths in ten were of children less than five years old. In industrial areas, infant mortality rates of 150 per 1,000 were not unusual. Most working men could expect to lose at least one child. The overwhelming majority of such deaths were due to infectious diseases, aided by poverty and malnutrition. In underdeveloped countries today these diseases still account for half the death roll.

### Tuberculosis

No deaths locally from this cause in 1961. Eradication of tuberculosis from Great Britain is now possible within twenty years. Pulmonary tuberculosis would then go the way of bone tuberculosis. Now a rarity yet twenty years ago it filled long stay hospitals. Pasteurisation of raw milk and tuberculin testing of milk herds take the credit for a great saving of lives and prevention of crippling deformities.

Measures of control now practised are:-

- (i) registration of cases
- (ii) examination of their close contacts
- (iii) specialist treatment at chest clinics
- (iv) vaccination of youngsters leaving the school community for the adult world.
- (v) search for early cases among the apparently healthy general population (Mass X-Ray Survey).

to this should be added (vi) X-Ray examination of immigrants.

Recent surveys suggest that Indian/Pakistani immigrants may have an incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis of 25 per 1,000. On this basis, we imported about 1,000 active cases in 1961 from the Indian sub-continent. West Indian immigrants have a rate similar to our own and therefore give no cause for concern. Pressure from the British Medical Association has not moved the Government to act. We now have the odd situation where the Ministry of Health seems to find it worth while X-raying our general population to discover less than one case in a thousand volunteers, yet resists a vastly more productive survey of immigrants.

Turning to the local scene, the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit visited the town in March. During their three weeks' stay, 2,085 volunteers attended.

Mass Radiography Survey Volunteer Response

|         | All Ages | 15 - 19 | 20 - 24 | 25 - 34 | 35 - 44 | 45 - 54 | 55 - 59 | 60 - 64 | 65+ |
|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----|
| Males   | 1,363    | 171     | 128     | 304     | 328     | 267     | 87      | 47      | 31  |
| Females | 722      | 185     | 81      | 125     | 144     | 104     | 39      | 23      | 21  |
| Total   | 2,085    | 356     | 209     | 429     | 472     | 371     | 126     | 70      | 52  |

The overall attendance figure was quite good. In all but the youngest group, however, the women did not come forward as well as we would have liked.

Two previously unknown cases were detected, also two suspected cases requiring further observation.

B.C.G. Vaccination is offered to school leavers. Like other immunisation procedures, it falls within that part of personal health services afforded by the County Council's Health Committee. Thetford Borough, Swaffham U.D. and R.D., and Wayland R.D., together cover an area which is an administrative unit for these services, Health Area 6. During the year, 201 children attending schools in these districts were vaccinated against tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis Register Thetford M.B.

| Year | Respiratory T.B. |        |       | Non-Respiratory T.B. |        |       | Grand Total |
|------|------------------|--------|-------|----------------------|--------|-------|-------------|
|      | Male             | Female | Total | Male                 | Female | Total |             |
| 1961 | 10               | 12     | 22    | 3                    | 1      | 4     | 26          |
| 1960 | 8                | 8      | 16    | 3                    | 1      | 4     | 20          |
| 1959 | 11               | 10     | 21    | 3                    | 1      | 4     | 25          |
| 1958 | 8                | 14     | 22    | 3                    | 2      | 5     | 27          |

Smallpox

This disease was introduced in December, the source being the Karachi outbreak which started the month before. No cases or contacts reached this district. Where cases did occur, the next casualty was common-sense and there were bigger queues for vaccination than for bingo. Mass vaccination is not necessary for the control of smallpox outbreaks such as we experience in Britain. The technique in our situation is to "ring" each case, i.e. trace and vaccinate all contacts of the patient, and then immediate contacts of these people. There is no need to go in ever-widening circles from these to the general population. There are secondary objections to mass vaccination. Massive sickness - absence from work is one. Severe vaccination reactions could be confused with modified smallpox, the reverse being a situation fraught with danger. There is also the remote possibility of death from vaccination's complications. It is much more rational to employ trained staff on intensive contact tracing than on mass vaccination.

Since the outbreak, there has been discussion among doctors on the merits of the official policy on vaccination, which is to encourage the vaccination of all healthy children in infancy. A successful vaccination can be relied on to produce immunity for up to five years. Continued protection requires revaccination at such intervals throughout life. Thus even were all infants vaccinated, the immunity of the population at large would not rise materially and vaccination in infancy carries a death rate of 1 in 100,000. A small risk maybe but then smallpox is a rare disease in Britain; is this risk then a justifiable one? On the basis of past experience, it would be safer to postpone vaccination until the first year is over. The death rate is then of the order of 1 in 400,000. A minority of doctors take the view that routine vaccination of infants benefits the community not at all and should be abandoned. The procedure would then be reserved for those at special risk, e.g. ambulance attendants, nurses, doctors, immigration officials, Service personnel and others who travel abroad.



## Poliomyelitis

There were no cases notified locally in 1961. It was a quiet year generally, 1,081 cases in England and Wales. The outbreak in Hull lasted about six weeks and accounted for 134 notifications. Poliomyelitis is usually most prevalent in late summer but the Yorkshire epidemic started in October.

Many millions of doses of both injection (Salk) and oral (Sabin) vaccine have now been used. It seems that this is one of the safest vaccination procedures and certainly most effective. The oral vaccine has the edge in that by the introduced virus settling in the bowel wall it blocks the entry of the "wild" disease virus; it thus gives some immediate protection. This has to be boosted by two further doses for lasting immunity (around five years). A mass trial of American oral vaccine in Czechoslovakia, 1958-1960, in which over three million children took part, has been very successful: no poliomyelitis cases in the Republic in 1961. In 1962, the oral vaccine will be generally available in Britain.

### Poliomyelitis Vaccination - Health Area 6 - Position at 31st December, 1961.

|                                                    |        |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------|
| No. of persons completed three dose course -       | 10,837 |
| Year of Birth 1956 - 1961 -                        | 1,844  |
| Year of Birth 1943 - 1955 -                        | 6,051  |
| Year of Birth 1933 - 1942 -                        | 1,823  |
| Persons born before 1933 and not yet 40 yrs. old - | 1,059  |
| 40+ but priority occupation -                      | 60     |

Note: Under 40's are entitled to poliomyelitis protection. Those over 40 at special occupational risk, for example ambulance drivers and nurses also qualify.

Children between 5 and 12 years of age are given an extra fourth dose: 2,731 such were given in 1961.

## Measles

Notifications were the highest ever recorded nationally: 762,391 cases; our contribution: 253. A vaccine is being developed against measles. It is as yet only capable of giving short lived immunity and has unpleasant side effects. But in a few years these snags should be overcome. The disease causes an immense amount of misery and discomfort, but the antibiotics have reduced its killing power and the complications of bronchopneumonia and middle ear disease are much less dangerous now.

## Diphtheria

This disease is now rare. We have no notifications this year. The national total was 180 cases. Before immunisation campaigns began in the 1940's, this country averaged 55,000 cases and 3,000 deaths from diphtheria annually. This staggering reduction is due to immunisation of the child population. There are a few people who harbour the germ though apparently healthy, but always a danger to others. In consequence, it is essential to keep the immunity of our children high. There are signs that here unfamiliarity is breeding contempt, for the proportion of children protected is not high enough. Among schoolchildren in Norfolk, 36% in 1959, 43% in 1960 and 53% in 1961 were reckoned fully protected. We hope this improvement can be maintained.

### Diphtheria Immunisation - Health Area 6

| <u>Year of Birth</u> | <u>Primary course completed in 1961</u> | <u>Reinforcing Doses 1961</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1961                 | 138                                     | -                             |
| 1960                 | 345                                     | -                             |
| 1959                 | 98                                      | 11                            |
| 1958                 | 61                                      | 9                             |
| 1957                 | 35                                      | 13                            |
| 1952 - 1956          | 266                                     | 670                           |
| 1947 - 1951          | 211                                     | 639                           |
|                      | <hr/> 1,154                             | <hr/> 1,342                   |

Whooping Cough

This disease was not very prevalent in 1961. There were 24,691 cases notified in England and Wales and only 9 in the Borough. The disease is particularly severe in young infants hence immunisation at 2 to 3 months old is advisable, with another shot at about 15 months to boost immunity.

Whooping Cough Immunisation - Health Area 6

| <u>Year of Birth</u> | <u>Primary courses completed in 1961</u> |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1961                 | 256                                      |
| 1960                 | 216                                      |
| 1959                 | 46                                       |
| 1958                 | 36                                       |
| 1957                 | 30                                       |
| 1952 - 1956          | 22                                       |
| 1947 - 1951          | 14                                       |
|                      | <hr/>                                    |
|                      | 620                                      |

Tetanus

The tetanus bacillus produces a poison, the tiniest quantity being capable of setting the body muscles into such severe and continuing spasm that death from exhaustion is often the result. The germ is widely found in soil and manure. Hence the need for all engaged in farmwork being immunised: it is equally necessary for children to be afforded protection.

Tetanus Immunisation - Health Area 6

| <u>Age</u>     | <u>Primary courses completed in 1961</u> | <u>Reinforcing Doses in 1961</u> |
|----------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Under 16 years | 2,353                                    | 477                              |
| Over 16 years  | 477                                      | 48                               |
|                | <hr/>                                    | <hr/>                            |
|                | 2,830                                    | 525                              |

Infectious Disease Notifications

No one would pretend that these are equally complete for all diseases. For such diseases as whooping cough and measles, the returns are at least a sample of what is the real experience at any particular season. For such diseases as poliomyelitis where immediate preventive measures can be brought into play few, if any, cases go unreported.

Infectious Disease Notification, 1961.

|                          |     |                       |   |
|--------------------------|-----|-----------------------|---|
| Scarlet Fever            | 4   | Enteric fevers        | 0 |
| Whooping Cough           | 9   | Erysipelas            | 1 |
| Poliomyelitis            | 0   | Food poisoning        | 0 |
| Measles                  | 253 | Tuberculosis          | 5 |
| Diphtheria               | 0   | Pueperal Pyrexia      | 3 |
| Meningococcal infections | 0   | Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 2 |
| Acute pneumonia          | 4   | Infective Hepatitis   | 1 |
| Smallpox                 | 0   | Dysentery             | 0 |
| Encephalitis             | 0   | Anthrax               | 0 |



Appendix A - Health and Welfare Services provided by Norfolk County Council

These include the care of mothers and young children; supervision of the health of the schoolchild; immunisation against diphtheria, poliomyelitis etc.; home nursing and midwifery; home help service; advice on the care of those handicapped physically or mentally. Information on such services may be had from the Local Health Office, Tanner Street, Thetford. Telephone 3286 and 3341.

Appendix B - Derivation of Statistical Rates

Adjusted Birth Rate: (Live births per 1000 population) x comparability factor for births.

Adjusted Death Rate: (Deaths per 1000 population) x comparability factor for deaths.

Comparability Factors: Allow for variation between areas, e.g. in the proportion of women of reproductive age and in the age/sex structure of population.

Infant Mortality Rate: Deaths at under 1 year per 1000 live births.

Legitimate I.M.R.: Deaths of legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births.

Illegitimate I.M.R.: Deaths of illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births.

Maternal Mortality Rate: Deaths attributable to pregnancy per 1000 total births.

Stillbirth Rate: Stillbirths per 1000 total births.

Perinatal Mortality Rate: (Stillbirths and Early Neonatal Deaths) per 1000 total births.

Neonatal Mortality Rate: Deaths at under 4 weeks per 1000 live births.

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate: Deaths at under 1 week per 1000 live births.

Appendix C - Comparisons with Previous Years

|                       | 1961  | 1960  | 1959  | 1958  | 1957  | 1956  |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Estimated Population  | 5,470 | 5,180 | 4,910 | 4,790 | 4,750 | 4,650 |
| Total Births          | 125   | 106   | 88    | 79    | 97    | 83    |
| Stillbirths           | 1     | 4     | 1     | 3     | 1     | 1     |
| Stillbirth Rate       | 8.0   | 37.6  | 11.45 | 37.9  | 10.3  | 12.0  |
| Deaths                | 76    | 74    | 67    | 74    | 62    | 87    |
| Death Rate (Crude)    | 13.9  | 14.2  | 13.6  | 15.4  | 13.1  | 18.7  |
| Infant Deaths         | 1     | 0     | 2     | 3     | 1     | 5     |
| Infant Mortality Rate | 8.1   | Nil   | 23.4  | 39.4  | 10.4  | 60.9  |
| Birth Rate (Crude)    | 22.7  | 19.8  | 17.4  | 15.9  | 20.2  | 17.6  |





ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1961.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report for the year 1961, on the sanitary circumstances in the District. The report is compiled in accordance with the requirements of Ministry of Health Circular No. 1/62.

New Legislation

During 1961 the undermentioned new Acts of Parliament affecting the work of the Department came on the Statute Book:-

Housing Act, 1961 - is a supplementary Act which, among other things, amends legislation relating to condemned dwellings and improvement grants and Part II deals with the control of "houses in multiple occupation" - fortunately this aspect of housing administration is not a great problem in this area.

Public Health Act, 1961 - is an Act with a number of miscellaneous provisions some of which are (i) provisions for the replacement of existing building byelaws by building regulations made by the Minister to be applied on a national basis and enforced by local authorities, (ii) amendments to the law relating to the discharge of trade effluents to public sewers (iii) amendments to existing law for dealing with dangerous buildings, sanitary conveniences, drains, defective premises, accumulations of rubbish, verminous premises and articles, (iv) infectious disease control, (v) powers to make bylaws for fairs and roller skating rinks and (vi) byelaws may be made to secure cleanliness in hairdressers' and barbers' premises.

Factories Act, 1961 - an Act to consolidate the Factories Acts, 1937 - 1959. Provisions enforced by the local authority are contained in Part I of the Act and also certain duties relating to water supplies, basement bakehouses and outworkers.

Consumer Protection Act, 1961 - the Home Secretary may make regulations relating to goods for the protection of the consumers, which may provide for local authorities being responsible for their enforcement.

In addition to the above, new Regulations, Orders, Statutory Instruments and Circulars were issued by the various Ministries regarding Meat Inspection, Milk and Dairies, Imported Food, Food Hygiene (Poultry processing Code of Practice), Clean Air, Housing, Rag Flock etc., Regulations and Rivers Pollution.

WATER SUPPLY

The public supply is taken from a deep well into chalk which is situated to the north of the town and from two boreholes to the south of Barnham Cross Common. The water from each source is chlorinated before passing into the supply mains.

Whereas it had been found necessary in 1960 to restrict the use of garden hoses during the summer months, no restrictions at all were imposed during 1961, and the water undertaking was able to meet all the growing demands of domestic users and of industry and for the increased requirements for building work etc., in the areas of development taking place under the Council's Town Expansion Scheme. This ample adequacy of water was obtained when, on 6th February, 1961, the new 600,000 gallons storage reservoir at Barrow Hill was brought into service, giving a total water storage capacity of 820,000 gallons.



From the information obtained from the Water Engineer approximately 419,000 gallons of water were pumped per day of which 143,300 gallons per day were used for industrial purposes, leaving 275,700 gallons per day for domestic use.

The average domestic consumption per head per day amounted to 49 gallons. This rather high figure can probably be accounted for by the fact that a considerable quantity of water was used for gardening purposes during the dry summer to keep plants alive on the very light sandy soil and also to the simple fact that people are using more water.

Water samples were taken at intervals throughout the year and submitted to the Public Analyst and the Public Health Laboratory Service for Chemical and Bacteriological examination. Copies of the Chemical Analysis Reports are given as an appendix. The results of the samples sent for bacteriological examination were highly satisfactory. The examination of a raw sample of water taken off the rising main at the borehole showed a nil return of coliform bacilli and Bact. coli (type 1) per 100 ml.

Practically all houses within the district have a piped water supply either direct into the house or to within the curtilage of the house. Eight houses situated on the extreme boundaries of the district take their water from wells or bores. Bacteriological examination of the water in one of these wells revealed that it was polluted and the use of that well was discontinued - wholesome water is now delivered daily to the two houses affected.

The water mains were extended as follows to provide a public supply to Private Development Sites, Council Estates, the London County County Residential and Industrial Estates:-

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| 3 inch mains - | 846 yards   |
| 4 inch mains - | 1,612 yards |
| 6 inch mains - | 420 yards   |

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#### BATHING STATION ON RIVER

Samples of water from the River Little Ouse were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination and samples were also taken by the Pollution Prevention Officer of the Great Ouse River Board during the bathing season, in order to detect any heavy pollution which could have occurred.

With the results of the examinations and analyses, together with frequent inspections of the river banks and investigations at possible sources of pollution upstream from the bathing station (i.e. Barnham sewage disposal works and various watercourses), it was considered that the river water was "clean" and safe for bathing purposes.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

With the completion of Contract "D", the final stage in the reconnection scheme was reached. Now every property on the line of the sewers with a right of reconnection had their sink and/or bath wastes taken off the storm water sewers and reconnected to the new foul sewerage system free of charge. All those premises on the line of the sewer with drainage to cesspools also received a free connection and the cesspools were emptied, filled and sealed.

The completion of this work left every premise in the district, having a right of reconnection, with a drain connected to the foul sewer within the curtilage and, in most cases, right up to the back door, thereby greatly reducing the costs to owners for the conversion of insanitary pail and vault closets to water closets. To encourage owners still further to carry out conversions, grants are available for £20 or half the cost for a complete connection whichever is the least, or of up to £10 for the connection of a water closet only where the Council have themselves reconnected the sink waste free of charge.



During the year, 34 properties only with vault or pail closets as sanitary accommodation were converted and connected to the sewer. 14 applications for the grant were received and authorised for payment by the Council.

In addition to the above connections, one house off the line of the public sewer with a cesspool was connected privately when a nearby housing site was sewerred. Two Crown properties in the outlying area of the district were brought up to Improvement Grant Standards and water closets to cesspools were substituted for a pail and a vault closet.

The position at December 1961 was as follows:-

|                                                         |       |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| (a) Number of occupied properties with pail closets     | .. .. | 81    |
| Number of occupied properties with vault closets        | .. .. | 13    |
| Number of occupied properties with W.C.'s to cesspools  | .. .. | 36    |
|                                                         |       | <hr/> |
| Total number of properties not connected to sewer       | .. .. | 130   |
|                                                         |       | <hr/> |
| (b) Number of properties not on line of sewer or not    |       |       |
| capable of connection                                   | .. .. | 53    |
| Number of condemned/closed properties still occupied    | .. .. | 12    |
| Number of properties likely to be affected by slum      |       |       |
| clearance                                               | .. .. | 26    |
| Number of properties which should be connected to sewer |       | 39    |
|                                                         |       | <hr/> |
|                                                         |       | 130   |
|                                                         |       | <hr/> |

From the above figures, it will be seen that 39 properties should still be connected to the sewer but, of that number, 5 properties are likely to be affected by the proposed Inner Relief Road, 2 by the proposed Town Centre Plan and a further 14 houses will be affected by slum clearance.

#### Conservancy

The weekly collection of soil, from premises with pail closets, has been carried out by Contract.

Vaults and cesspools were emptied, as required, by contract and as a free service to the occupiers. The number of vaults and cesspools emptied in this way was as follows:-

|           |       |    |
|-----------|-------|----|
| Cesspools | .. .. | 28 |
| Vaults    | .. .. | 7  |

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection of refuse was carried out on a weekly basis and covered the whole district except for approximately eight properties which, because of their extreme isolation from the collection routes, cannot be accommodated. The collection was direct from the houses and, where possible, rear collections were made. The type of vehicle used was a "Karrier" side loading, rear tipping vehicle of 12 cubic yards capacity, manned by a Driver-loader and 3 loaders.

Provision was made for the collection of Trade Refuse at a fixed quarterly charge which varied with the number of bins collected from each premises.

The disposal of refuse was by semi-controlled tipping at a disused pit outside the built-up area of the town. The refuse was put down by a tractor and blade as and when required.

Refuse tips, particularly those where only semi-controlled tipping is carried out, offer an ideal home for rats where they can obtain warmth, good cover and a constant food supply, and ours was no exception. In previous years, during the autumn and winter, when vermin converged on the pit from surrounding farmland, hedges and ditches, saw a constant battle between the rodent operator and the rat colony, with frequent treatments consisting of 4 days pre-baiting and poisoning on the fifth day. This year, however, with the use of a gas pump and cyanide powder, periodic one day treatments met with great success, so much so that it can be stated that the refuse pit was kept almost completely rat free.

## HOUSING

### (i) General

The number of dwellings, including Council houses, occupied in the District according to the Rate Book was 2,881, and the population (1961 Census) figure was 5,400. Based on these figures, the average number of persons per dwelling is 2.87.

205 new dwellings were erected and occupied during the year, 31 of which were built by private enterprise leaving 174 Council houses.

### (ii) Unfit dwellings - Action under the Housing Acts

In continuing the Council's slum clearance policy, a further 25 dwellings were represented to the Public Health Committee as unfit for human habitation and not capable of being repaired at a reasonable cost. Following consideration by the Committee and Council of written detailed schedules of defects and reports on each property, the following action was taken:-

|                                                                           |         |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----|
| (a) Demolition Orders made                                                | .. .. . | 19 |
| (b) Closing Orders made                                                   | .. .. . | 1  |
| (c) Deferred "Time and Place" notices to allow owners to submit proposals | ..      | 3  |
| (d) Carried forward for action in 1962                                    | .. .. . | 2  |

In addition, one house was reconstructed and repaired thus making it fit for human habitation and the undertaking given by the owner was cancelled.

During the year, 11 dwellings were demolished after the tenants had been re-housed by the Council and, in all, 14 families (30 individuals) were re-housed by the Council.

As a result of routine housing inspections and investigations after receipt of complaints from tenants informal action was taken to remedy some defect or other at 69 houses.

A summary of action taken under the Housing Act to date is as follows:-

|                                                                                         |         |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----|
| Individual unfit houses demolished                                                      | .. .. . | 71 |
| Houses demolished in Clearance Area                                                     | .. .. . | 7  |
| Compulsory Purchase Orders - yet to be purchased and demolished by Council              | .. .. . | 12 |
| Operative Demolition Orders to be purchased by agreement and then demolished by Council | .. .. . | 18 |
| Demolition Orders - houses not yet vacated                                              | .. .. . | 21 |
| Demolition Orders - houses allowed to stand for time being                              | .. .. . | 6  |
| Closing Orders and undertakings not to re-let for human habitation                      | .. .. . | 14 |
| Houses rendered fit and removed from the list                                           | .. .. . | 5  |



### (iii) Improvement Grants

Few owners took advantage of the facilities provided under the Housing Acts to improve their houses with the aid of a grant through the Council and it is felt that this may be due somewhat to the uncertainty of the whereabouts of the proposed Inner Relief Road and to proposals to redevelop the Town Centre.

The usual improvements covered by the 'Standard Grant' were for the installation of baths, wash basins, hot and cold water supply, water closets and facilities for the storage of food. 7 only applications were made, 5 of which were approved and the remaining 2 were not granted because the houses concerned were likely to be affected by the route of the proposed Inner Relief Road. The amount of grant aid paid to applicants during the year amounted to £384 18s. 5d.

The "Discretionary Grant" is made to help owners to modernise houses by carrying out more extensive works than are covered by the Standard Grant. To get a discretionary grant, the dwelling must after improvement be free from damp, be properly lighted and ventilated, have an adequate hot and cold water supply, an internal W.C., fixed bath, sinks, proper drainage system, artificial lighting, heating and facilities for storing, preparing and cooking food, and for the storage of fuel. The grant is also conditional upon the house being brought into a good state of repair and to that end detailed inspections of each house were made and, where necessary, full schedules of the works required were prepared and forwarded to the applicant. 3 only applications were received during the year and the amount of aid paid to them and to two other grants approved in 1960 and paid in 1961 was £1,180.

Other enquiries were made about the two forms of grants, but on visiting the properties concerned and explaining the requirements necessary to obtain a grant, the owners lost interest for one reason or another.

### Dirty and Verminous Houses

Three new cases of dirty dwellings were found during the year and disinfection of these houses against fleas was carried out by the department. Informal notices served on the tenants to thoroughly clean their houses were complied with.

Three disinfections were also carried out at one premise to destroy a cockroach infestation.

### Infectious Diseases

Investigations were made at 4 houses from which cases of scarlet fever were notified and also at 3 houses where there had been cases of tuberculosis notified. Disinfection of the house had been requested by the occupier where there had been a case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

### Moveable Dwellings (Caravans)

Under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, one Site Licence only was granted and that was for one caravan only.

There was one other application for the use of land in St. Nicholas Street for residential caravanning which was refused by the Planning Authority. The applicant appealed against the decision and the case was heard in August and, although the applicant was eventually given permission to develop the site, he did not proceed with his proposals.

Considerable trouble was encountered with the parking of unauthorised caravans and tents during the summer months on the various common lands to the north, south and east of the town and also on private land. In one case where six caravans were parked on land at the rear of a house, the Council authorised that legal proceedings, after informal approach had been ignored, be taken against the occupier unless the vans were removed within a certain period - the caravans were moved. It was found that a high percentage of the unauthorised caravans were occupied by young married couples unable to find housing accommodation and by service personnel and their families unable to get married quarters. At one period of the year, an R.A.F. caravan site nearby was closed which didn't help the problem.



# SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following table summarises the inspections made during the year by your Public Health Inspector:-

| Description                                                           | Inspections                              | Informal notices        | No. abated |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Drainage of Premises                                                  | 186                                      | 16                      | 16         |
| Survey of house drainage for connection to new sewer                  | 34                                       | -                       | -          |
| General Nuisances                                                     | 83                                       | 45<br>1 formal notice   | 38         |
| Infectious Diseases                                                   | 7                                        | -<br>1 disinfection     | -          |
| Rats and Mice                                                         | See Section "Damage by Pests Act, 1949." |                         |            |
| Dangerous Structures                                                  | 17                                       | 3                       | 3          |
| Verminous and filthy premises                                         | 15                                       | 3<br>6 disinfections    | 3          |
| Housing Investigations (tenants requesting support for Council House) | 28                                       | -                       | -          |
| Housing General                                                       | 267                                      | See Section "Housing"   |            |
| Factories                                                             | 225                                      | See Section "Factories" |            |
| Bakehouses                                                            | 18                                       | 2                       | 2          |
| Butchers Shops                                                        | 79                                       | 4                       | 4          |
| Food Shops and Premises                                               | 163                                      | 18                      | 18         |
| Restaurants and Cafes                                                 | 31                                       | 3                       | 3          |
| Fried Fish Shops                                                      | 12                                       | 3                       | 3          |
| Ice-Cream Premises                                                    | 29                                       | -                       | -          |
| Milk Stores                                                           | 26                                       | 1                       | 1          |
| Market Stalls                                                         | 97                                       | 12                      | 12         |
| Public Houses                                                         | 32                                       | -                       | -          |
| Marine Store Dealers                                                  | 15                                       | -                       | -          |
| Slaughterhouses                                                       | 318                                      | 6                       | 6          |



PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

One man is employed by the Council on a part-time basis for the destruction of rats and mice. The Rodent Operator has been fully trained and from time to time has attended Refresher Courses arranged by the Ministry's Infestation Division to keep operators up to date in methods of rodent control. As the Borough grows and spreads under the Expansion Scheme, consideration will have to be given to providing a full time operator to cover the area and to carry out proper surveys and treatments of farms, land, buildings and houses including business premises.

The undermentioned inspections and course of treatments have been carried out in accordance with the provisions of the above Act which states that - "It will be the duty of every Local Authority to take such steps as may be necessary to secure as far as is practicable that their district is kept free from rats and mice."

It will be noted that every dwelling, business premise, farm, allotment - in fact every property within the Borough boundary - received at least one visit during the year.

|                                                                                                                         | Type of Property                   |                                                          |                                                     |                                          |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------|
|                                                                                                                         | Non-Agricultural                   |                                                          |                                                     |                                          | Agri-cultural |
|                                                                                                                         | Local<br>Auth-<br>ority<br><br>(1) | Dwelling<br>Houses (Inc.<br>Council<br>Houses<br><br>(2) | All other<br>(Inc. Business<br>Premises)<br><br>(3) | Total of<br>Cols. 1,<br>2 & 3<br><br>(4) |               |
| Number of properties in<br>Local Authority's District                                                                   | 22                                 | 1881                                                     | 452                                                 | 2355                                     | 23            |
| Number of properties in-<br>spected as a result of                                                                      |                                    |                                                          |                                                     |                                          |               |
| (a) Notification                                                                                                        | -                                  | 56                                                       | 16                                                  | 72                                       | -             |
| (b) Survey under the Act                                                                                                | 22                                 | 1825                                                     | 436                                                 | 2283                                     | 23            |
| (c) Otherwise (e.g. when<br>visited primarily for some<br>other purpose                                                 | not available                      |                                                          |                                                     |                                          |               |
| Number of properties<br>inspected which were found<br>to be infested by:                                                |                                    |                                                          |                                                     |                                          |               |
| (a) Rats (Major                                                                                                         | 1                                  | -                                                        | -                                                   | 1                                        | -             |
| (a) Rats (Minor                                                                                                         | 7                                  | 167                                                      | 16                                                  | 190                                      | 7             |
| (b) Mice (Major                                                                                                         | -                                  | -                                                        | -                                                   | -                                        | -             |
| (b) Mice (Minor                                                                                                         | -                                  | 11                                                       | 1                                                   | 12                                       | -             |
| Number of infested proper-<br>ties treated by the L.A.                                                                  | 8                                  | 178                                                      | 17                                                  | 203                                      | 1             |
| Total treatments carried<br>out including retreatments                                                                  | 17                                 | 243                                                      | 21                                                  | 281                                      | 2             |
| Number of notices served<br>under Section 4 of the Act                                                                  |                                    |                                                          |                                                     |                                          |               |
| (a) Treatment                                                                                                           | -                                  | -                                                        | 9                                                   | 9                                        | 1             |
| (b) Structural Work<br>(i.e. Proofing)                                                                                  | -                                  | -                                                        | -                                                   | -                                        | -             |
| Number of cases in which<br>default action was taken<br>following the issue of a<br>notice under Sect. 4 of<br>the Act. | -                                  | -                                                        | -                                                   | -                                        | -             |

Note: The above figures in each case relate to the number of properties inspected and not to the number of inspections, infestations or treatments at each property.



SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES AND PREMISES

(a) Milk Distribution

It will be remembered that as from 1st January, 1961, the administration and control of the sale of designated milks was transferred to the County Council, which left only the registration and supervision of milk distributors to the Borough. All milk sold in the District is in sealed bottles or containers as received by the distributors from premises outside the District. There were eight distributors registered with the Council and all have been kept under routine observation and only minor contraventions of the Regulations have been noted which were dealt with verbally. Dairies for the bottling of milk and cleansing of utensils have ceased to exist but the premises of the distributors have been suitable for the reception and storage of bottled milk pending distribution.

(b) Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

I am pleased to report that, in the course of inspection of food premises, no cases were found of unfit food being on display for sale and no instances of food suspected of being unfit reported by members of the public. However, a considerable quantity of food was examined on request and the following is a list of other foods being condemned and destroyed as unfit for human consumption:-

|                                            |         |                                   |
|--------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Tomato Puree                               | .. .. . | 592 x 5 kilo cans (almost 3 tons) |
| Corned Beef                                | .. .. . | 42 lbs.                           |
| Tinned Gammon Ham                          | .. .. . | 36 lbs.                           |
| Chopped Pork                               | .. .. . | 12 lbs.                           |
| Tinned Vegetables                          | .. .. . | 102 tins.                         |
| Evaporated Milk                            | .. .. . | 36 tins.                          |
| Tinned Fruit                               | .. .. . | 30 tins.                          |
| Tinned Meat, Fish, Soups and Milk Puddings |         | 60 tins.                          |
| Mallowcream Biscuits                       | .. .. . | 36 packets.                       |

Disposal was carried out under supervision at the Corporation tip.

(c) Meat Inspection

There are two private slaughterhouses in use, one of which is used solely by the owner for his own butchery business, the other is shared by two butchers. The three remaining butchers in the town "import" carcass meat from outside the district for their retail businesses.

It will be recalled that, following the submission of our Report on Slaughterhouse Facilities in the Borough to the Ministry in September, 1960, January 1st, 1962 was made the "appointed day" for this District when only those slaughterhouses which complied with the "construction regulations" under the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) and (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958 should continue to operate. Work on both slaughterhouses was completed just before the appointed day.

Although the number of animals killed has not been large, some 318 visits have been made to the slaughterhouses necessitated by the frequency of slaughtering in small quantities. I am pleased to report that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, 100% meat inspection was attained. To maintain this service, it was necessary to continue working overtime on 35 Sundays and at Bank Holidays.

The general quality of the animals inspected at the slaughterhouses has been good. The total weight of meat and offal condemned and destroyed as unfit for human consumption was as follows:-

| All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci |                 | Tuberculosis Only |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Offal                                           | Meat            | Offal             | Meat              |
| 481 lbs.<br>(324)                               | 82 lbs.<br>(73) | 18 lbs.<br>(51)   | 100 lbs.<br>(176) |

Figures in brackets relate to 1960.



The following table gives details of animals killed, together with information regarding numbers and percentages affected by disease:-

|                                                                                                         | Cattle<br>excluding<br>Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs  | Horses |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|-------|--------|
| Number killed                                                                                           | 244                         | -    | -      | 333                   | 539   | -      |
| Number inspected                                                                                        | 244                         | -    | -      | 333                   | 539   | -      |
| <u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis<br/>and Cysticerci</u>                                              |                             |      |        |                       |       |        |
| Whole carcasses condemned                                                                               | -                           | -    | -      | 1                     | -     | -      |
| Carcasses of which some part or<br>organ was condemned                                                  | 33                          | -    | -      | 2                     | 9     | -      |
| Percentage of the number inspect-<br>ed affected with disease other<br>than tuberculosis and cysticerci | 13.52%                      | -    | -      | 0.9%                  | 1.67% | -      |
| <u>Tuberculosis only</u>                                                                                |                             |      |        |                       |       |        |
| Whole carcasses condemned                                                                               | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -     | -      |
| Carcasses of which some part or<br>organ was condemned                                                  | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | 12    | -      |
| Percentage of the number inspect-<br>ed affected with tuberculosis                                      | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | 2.23% | -      |
| <u>Cysticercosis</u>                                                                                    |                             |      |        |                       |       |        |
| Carcasses of which some part<br>or organ was condemned                                                  | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -     | -      |
| Carcasses submitted to treatment<br>by refrigeration                                                    | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -     | -      |
| Generalised and totally condemned                                                                       | -                           | -    | -      | -                     | -     | -      |

The incidence of disease is about the same as in 1960 and it will be noted that not one bovine animal showed any tubercular lesions. Although thorough examination of every carcase has been carried out, no cases of cysticercus bovis has been detected amongst the bovine animals slaughtered.

(d) Deadweight Certification of Pigs for Subsidy

One slaughterhouse has been approved as a Deadweight Certification Centre by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food where pigs only may be presented by producers and certified as eligible for the guarantee payments under the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme. Your Public Health Inspector is the appointed Certifying Officer and a fee is payable to the Council for each payment certificate issued. 372 pigs were weighed and certified as eligible for the guarantee payment under the Scheme.

(e) Slaughter of Animals Acts - Slaughterman's Licences

Nine licences were issued to suitable persons authorising them to slaughter animals by approved methods of stunning. One of these was issued only for killing pigs and none authorised the holder to slaughter horses.

Food Premises

The legislation governing food premises is contained in the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and The Food Hygiene Regulations made thereunder and gives local authorities powers to secure the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in the handling and wrapping of food. The Regulations lay down requirements relating to food premises, including facilities for personal cleanliness, washing of food and equipment, provision of sinks, wash hand basins with supplies of hot and cold water, and for the general good construction, repair and cleanliness of the structure of food rooms. There are also provisions relating to stalls and the transport and handling of meat.

Regular inspections were made at all the food businesses in the district when advice was given and, where necessary, letters were sent requesting certain works to keep the premises up to the standards required. There were no prosecutions

In addition to the personal approach on the subject of clean food, abstracts of the requirements of the Regulations, together with posters to bring the attention of food traders and all persons handling food to the importance of preventing contamination of food by flies, dirt, infected hands, etc., were given to all occupiers of food premises.

Although it will be a long time before it can surely be said that all food handling premises are perfect and that food handling leaves nothing to be desired, there is an improvement and with frequent supervision and educational advice, the required standards will eventually be reached.

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is as follows:-

- (1) For the purpose of "the preparation of fish by any process of cooking, for sale for human consumption" ..... 3
- (2) For the purpose of "the sale of Ice-Cream" .....18
- (3) For the purpose of "the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale for human consumption including the preparation of meat by any process of cooking ..... 6

The number of food premises in the area by type of business is as follows:-

| Type of Business                                    | No. |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Cafes, Restaurants .. .. .                          | 14  |
| Greengrocers and Grocers .. .. .                    | 25  |
| Confectionery, Cakes, etc. .. .. .                  | 17  |
| Public Houses .. .. .                               | 16  |
| Fish Shops (including fried fish and chips) .. .. . | 7   |
| Bakehouses .. .. .                                  | 2   |
| General Stores .. .. .                              | 13  |
| Butchers Shops .. .. .                              | 6   |
| Sale of Ice-Cream .. .. .                           | 18  |



Ice-Cream

There are 18 premises registered in accordance with Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale only of Ice-Cream. In all cases the Ice-Cream is sold as wrapped.

40 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Bacteriological examination and the reports received showed the samples to be graded as follows:-

Grade I    ..   ..   ..   33 (excellent)  
Grade II   ..   ..   ..   7 (satisfactory)

FACTORIES ACTS

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

| Premises                                                                                                     | Number on Register          | Number of   |                 |                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
|                                                                                                              |                             | Inspections | Written notices | Occupiers prosecuted |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities                     | 2<br>(Slaught-<br>erhouses) | 45          | 4               | -                    |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority                     | 67                          | 94          | 3               | -                    |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) | 29                          | 86          | -               | -                    |
| Total                                                                                                        | 98                          | 225         | 7               | -                    |

# FACTORIES ACT

## Part I of the Act (Cont'd)

| Particulars                                                                 | Number of cases in which defects were found |          |                   |                   | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                             | Found                                       | Remedied | Referred          |                   |                                                       |
|                                                                             |                                             |          | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector |                                                       |
| Want of cleanliness                                                         | 5                                           | 5        | -                 | -                 | -                                                     |
| Overcrowding                                                                | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                     |
| Unreasonable temperature                                                    | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                     |
| Inadequate ventilation                                                      | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                     |
| Ineffective drainage of floors                                              | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                     |
| Sanitary Conveniences                                                       |                                             |          |                   |                   |                                                       |
| (a) Insufficient                                                            | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                     |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective                                                 | 3                                           | 3        | -                 | -                 | -                                                     |
| (c) For separate sexes                                                      | -                                           | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                     |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) | 2                                           | 2        | -                 | -                 | -                                                     |
| Total                                                                       | 10                                          | 10       | -                 | -                 | -                                                     |

All factories in the area are also subject to inspection by H.M. Factory Inspectorate and, if they find any unsatisfactory conditions which are enforceable by the local authority, they notify the Council for appropriate action. No such notifications were received during the year. Those factories which are also food premises received many visits during the year but all those visits are not included above for, although any infringements would have been noted, the visit was not primarily made under the Factories Acts.



Part VIII of the Act

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

| Nature of Work              | No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) | No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council | No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists | No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises | Notices served | Prosecutions |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Wearing apparel making etc. | 1                                                               | -                                                       | -                                               | -                                                 | -              | -            |
| Cleaning and washing        | -                                                               | -                                                       | -                                               | -                                                 | -              | -            |
| Total                       | 1                                                               | -                                                       | -                                               | -                                                 | -              | -            |

Other Matters

(i) Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare) Provisions Act, 1956.

Visits of inspection have been made at farms to ensure that employees are provided with satisfactory sanitary accommodation, but I regret that such visits have not been frequent owing to pressure of other duties. In general, the farms are small and employees are able to use the accommodation at the farm buildings.

(ii) Shops Acts, 1950.

Routine inspections have been made to ensure that shops comply with the legislation relating to suitable ventilation, lighting, seating, welfare, sanitary accommodation, washing facilities etc.

The local authority being a Borough Council are also responsible for the Shops Hours of Closing provisions and your Public Health Inspector is the appointed Shops Act Inspector for this purpose. This entails various visits out of normal working hours during the evening up to 10 p.m. and also Sunday surveys of the area.

(iii) Byelaw Control

Many visits have been made at various stages in the erection of private houses and buildings to ensure that the work complies with the Council's Byelaws.

(iv) Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957.

The provisions of the Order state that proper and adequate plant and equipment together with separate storage for both "boiled" and "unboiled" waste foods or swill shall be provided and that the person responsible for the operation of such plant must hold a licence. The local authority is empowered to grant such licence only if it is satisfied that the plant is adequate to ensure that the waste foods can be boiled in accordance with the requirements of the Order.

The Borough Council is the responsible local authority for licensing swill boiling plants and storage facilities. 14 such licences were issued in 1961.

In conclusion, I would like to express appreciation and thanks to Members of the Council for their continued support and consideration, and to the Medical Officer and all other members of the staff for their assistance and co-operation.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

W. A. Robinson

Public Health Inspector.



APPENDIX

Cert. No. N.231

Lab. No. 3011/W

Lincolne Sutton & Wood,  
Analytical and Consulting Chemists,  
Clarence House,  
6 Clarence Road,  
NORWICH.

11th December, 1961.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample received 4th December, 1961, from Thetford B.C.

Marked TBC/61/1C. Public Supply, Barnham Cross Headworks.

Appearance when received: clear

Nature of Deposit: nil

Colour: nil

Odour: nil

Reaction: faintly alkaline      pH: 7.4      Taste: satisfactory

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Ammoniacal nitrogen: 0.03

Hardness as  $\text{CaCO}_3$ :

Albuminoid nitrogen: nil

Total: 200

Nitrate nitrogen: 2.5

Carbonate (temporary): 175

Non-carbonate (permanent): 25

Nitrite nitrogen: nil

Alkalinity as  $\text{CaCO}_3$ : 175

Chlorine as chlorides: 14

Free carbon dioxide: 23

Oxygen absorbed (4 hr.,  $27^\circ\text{C}.$ ): nil

Total solids (at  $180^\circ\text{C}.$ ): 260

Iron (total): 0.13

Metals in solution: negligible trace

OPINION

The organic quality of this water is good and there is no sign of pollution from the chemical analysis. The analysis as a whole is little different from that of the last sample (our Cert. No. M.61) except that there is a slight fall in the total hardness from  $15^\circ$  Clark to  $14^\circ$  Clark.

The iron content of the present sample was a little higher than on the previous occasion of sampling, but the water was nevertheless bright and clear. In our opinion, this water is fit for drinking and general purposes.

for Lincolne Sutton & Wood Ltd.,

Signed Eric C. Wood.

Cert. No. N.232

Lab. No. 3011/W

Lincolne Sutton & Wood,  
Analytical and Consulting Chemists,  
Clarence House,  
6 Clarence Road,  
NORWICH.

11th December, 1961.

#### CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample received 4th December, 1961, from Thetford B.C.

Marked TBC/61/2C. Public Supply, Mundford Road Headworks.

Appearance when received: clear; yellow deposit.

Nature of Deposit: chalk; traces iron compounds.

Colour: nil

Odour: nil

Reaction: neutral      pH: 7.2

Taste: satisfactory

#### RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Ammoniacal nitrogen: 0.02

Hardness as  $\text{CaCO}_3$ :

Albuminoid nitrogen: 0.02

Total: 250

Nitrate nitrogen: 5

Carbonate (temporary): 190

Non-carbonate (permanent): 60

Nitrite nitrogen: nil

Alkalinity as  $\text{CaCO}_3$ : 190

Chlorine as chlorides: 24

Free carbon dioxide: 39

Oxygen absorbed (4 hr.,  $27^\circ\text{C}.$ ): nil

Total solids (at  $180^\circ\text{C}.$ ): 340

Iron (total): 0.08

Metals in solution: negligible trace

#### OPINION

This water is of very good organic quality and the chemical analysis shows no signs of pollution. There is little difference between this analysis and the last (our Cert. No. M.60), but there appears to have been a slight rise in the chloride content. The total hardness remains almost the same,  $18^\circ$  Clark, all but  $4^\circ$  of which is temporary. The sample contained a trace of deposit, which was found to consist partly of chalk and partly of iron compounds. The amount was negligible and should not give rise to any complaint. In our opinion, this water is suitable for drinking and general purposes.

for Lincolne Sutton & Wood Ltd.,

Signed Eric C. Wood.



BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER

| Date     | Source                                                                           | Probable numbers per 100 ml. |                      |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
|          |                                                                                  | Coliform bacilli             | Bact. coli. (type 1) |
| 30.1.61  | Tap in King Street (Public Supply)                                               | 0                            | 0                    |
| 30.1.61  | Tap in Station Road (Public Supply)                                              | 0                            | 0                    |
| 2.2.61   | Reservoir, Barrow Hill (Public Supply)                                           | 0                            | 0                    |
| 2.2.61   | Valve House, Reservoir Site (Public Supply)                                      | 0                            | 0                    |
| 26.4.61  | Tap in Fulmerston Road (Public Supply)                                           | 0                            | 0                    |
| 26.4.61  | Tap in Brandon Road (Public Supply)                                              | 0                            | 0                    |
| 26.4.61  | Tap in Mundford Road (Public Supply)                                             | 0                            | 0                    |
| 26.4.61  | Tap in King Street (Public Supply)                                               | 0                            | 0                    |
| 22.6.61  | Tap in Bury Road (Public Supply)                                                 | 3                            | 0                    |
| 22.6.61  | Tap in Raymond Street (Public Supply)                                            | 0                            | 0                    |
| 31.7.61  | Tap in Croxton Road (Public Supply, end of main)                                 | 0                            | 0                    |
| 31.7.61  | Tap in Fulmerston Road (Public Supply)                                           | 0                            | 0                    |
| 23.8.61  | Tap in Croxton Road (Public Supply)                                              | 0                            | 0                    |
| 11.10.61 | Rising Main, Borehole, Barnham Common (Public Supply)                            | 0                            | 0                    |
| 11.10.61 | Reservoir, Barrow Hill (Public Supply)                                           | 0                            | 0                    |
| 11.10.61 | Reservoir, Mundford Road (Public Supply)                                         | 0                            | 0                    |
| 31.10.61 | Tap in Ulfkell Road (Public Supply)                                              | 0                            | 0                    |
| 31.10.61 | Borehole, Two Mile Bottom (Private Supply)                                       | 0                            | 0                    |
| 31.10.61 | Deep Well, Two Mile Bottom (Private Supply)                                      | 0                            | 0                    |
| 31.10.61 | Deep Well, Olleys Farm (Private Supply)                                          | 180+                         | 35                   |
| 6.11.61  | Deep Well, Olleys Farm (Private Supply after cleaning out well and chlorinating) | 0                            | 0                    |







